

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 through 6, 7 through 14, and 16 through 18 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A cleaning method for cleaning a developer container, comprising:

a blowing step of blowing air through an opening formed in said developer container at a first flow rate; and

a suction step of sucking air through the opening at a second flow rate, rate which is larger than the first flow [[rate;]] rate, to suck toner from the developer container to clean the developer container,

wherein ~~while~~ said blowing step and said suction step ~~steps~~ are being simultaneously carried out concurrently while supplying[[,]] ambient air ~~is permitted to enter said~~ into the developer container through an ambient air inlet.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the ambient air inlet is disposed at ~~the~~ a position opposite from ~~said~~ the opening with respect to a longitudinal direction of ~~said~~ the developer container.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a an inserting step of inserting an air nozzle into ~~said~~ the developer container.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 3, wherein in said blowing step ~~the~~ air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of ~~said~~ the air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of ~~said~~ the air nozzle.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 3, wherein in said inserting step, ~~and one~~ first and second air nozzles are inserted into the developer container, and in said blowing step ~~the~~ air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports of the first air nozzle in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of ~~said~~ the first air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of ~~said~~ the first air nozzle, and ~~the~~ air is blown through an air blowing port provided at a longitudinal end of the second air nozzle in a longitudinal direction of the second air nozzle.

6. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 5, wherein a blowing rate of the first air nozzle is larger than a blowing rate of the second air nozzle.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step and suction step are carried out simultaneously while ~~said~~ the developer container is rotated.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step and said suction step are carried out simultaneously while reciprocating ~~said~~ the developer container in a longitudinal direction thereof.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step is carried out after ~~start of~~ starting said suction step.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A recycling method for recycling a developer container, comprising:

a removing step of removing first and second used sealing members sealing first and second ~~opening~~ openings, respectively, provided in ~~said~~ the developer container;

a blowing step of blowing air through the first ~~[[an]]~~ opening ~~formed in said developer container~~ at a first flow rate;

a suction step of sucking air through the first ~~[[an]]~~ opening at a second flow rate, rate which is larger than the first flow ~~[[rate;]]~~ rate, to suck toner from the developer container to clean the developer container,

a filling step of filling ~~a developer into said~~ the developer container with developer; and

~~instead~~ a mounting step of mounting ~~said~~ first and second new sealing members to seal ~~said~~ the first and second openings;

wherein ~~wherein~~ while said blowing step and said suction step ~~steps~~ are ~~being~~ simultaneously carried out concurrently while supplying~~[[,]]~~ ambient air into the ~~is~~ permitted to enter said developer container through an ambient air inlet.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein ~~said the ambient air inlet is said~~ the second opening is disposed at a position opposite from ~~said the~~ first opening with respect to a longitudinal direction of ~~said the~~ developer container.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, further comprising a an inserting step of inserting an air nozzle into ~~said the~~ developer container.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 12, wherein in said blowing step ~~the~~ air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of ~~said the~~ air nozzle at different positions with respect to circumferential direction of ~~said the~~ air nozzle.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 12, wherein in said inserting step, ~~and one~~ first and second air nozzles are inserted into the developer container, and in said blowing step ~~the~~ air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports of the first air nozzle in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of ~~said the first~~ air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of ~~said the first~~ air nozzle, and ~~the~~ air is blown through an air blowing port provided at a longitudinal end of the second air nozzle in a longitudinal direction of the second air nozzle.

15. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 14, wherein a blowing rate of the first air nozzle is larger than a blowing rate of the second air nozzle.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step and suction step are carried out simultaneously while ~~said~~ the developer container is rotated.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step and said suction step are carried out simultaneously while reciprocating ~~said~~ the developer container in a longitudinal direction thereof.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step is carried out after ~~start of~~ starting said suction step.